

Four-Season Landscaping

By John Zielinski, PCH

There was a time when “landscaping” meant having flower gardens. Today, landscaping defines most everything you experience outside of your home or business. In addition to flowers and trees, there are entrances, walkways, patios, decks, walls, lighting, fountains, ponds, pools, and pergolas. And since someone is experiencing the outside of your property 365 days a year, you need to think about four-season landscaping.

A Plant For All Seasons

We are happy to see the first flowers of spring. With a little planning, you can include an assortment of plants in your landscape to ensure that as one flower fades, another plant begins to bloom.

The right shrub can ensure that your winter is filled with color too. Holly and Nandina are shrubs that display colorful berries throughout the cold months. The berries provide both beauty, and food for birds.

Beauty and Safety All Year Long

Someone is entering or leaving your home or business every day. So make sure that your entrance and walkways are attractive and safe. Your home or business entrance can be enhanced with steps, walls, plants, or container gardens.

Don't limit your walkways to traditional poured concrete. Be creative with colors and patterns using pavers to provide a safe and decorative solution. Other walkway enhancements may include varying the walkway location or changing its path from straight to curved.

Lighting is also a beauty enhancement. Landscape lighting spotlights elements in your outdoor



design. It can also add an element of safety to deter intruders, provide safer walkways for visitors, and enhance the ambiance of your outdoor entertaining. Landscape lighting is high-efficiency and can include a timer or photo cell.

Outdoor Living Areas

The focal point of many outdoor living areas is a deck or patio. The size and building materials can reflect your personal taste and the purpose for this living space. How much seating area do you need? Do you want outdoor cooking facilities? Are you thinking about adding audio or video? Would you like to attract butterflies and birds? Do you crave a stream, pond, or fountain? Do you want to enhance your experience (and add a few more evenings) by incorporating a fire pit?

In Pennsylvania, it is unlikely that you will be using your deck 365 days a year. But with proper planning, you can maximize the number of days that you can enjoy it. Make sure your space is customized to your personal interests and enjoyment.

Landscaped spaces can range from traditional to contemporary. Whether your patio space includes a simple table for quiet dinners, or a highly crafted entertainment area with all the

amenities, it should be about you.

Landscape Your Pool Area

Enhance your pool experience with gardens, a pool house, and shade structures. Improve the ambiance by selecting the right patio design and fence. Stereo speakers and outdoor cooking facilities are also growing in popularity.

What Is In Your Outdoor Paradise?

Four-season landscaping is all about your interests and proper planning.

1. Begin with a list of everything you would like to do outdoors – entertain, quietly read in the shade (or in the sun), improve the appearance or safety, etc.
2. Meet with a professional landscape designer who can help balance your desires with your outdoor space and budget. Ensure that your landscape professional is a Registered Home Improvement Contractor. Additional accreditation as a Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist (PCH) will also be to your advantage. The company should provide all the services you will require, including design, installation, and maintenance.
3. Enjoy your outdoor living area... all year long!



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